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CONTRIBUTIONS to THE ENCOURAGER CONTENT

Happenings, Poems, Letters, Photos are invited from Cursillistas. Articles should generally be a maximum 300 words, 1 page, if typing use simple formatting. If emailing attach in Word document or send as part of message.

Please think about contributing an article, all articles will be welcomed.

Please forward articles to the editor: Martina Bowen leo.bowen.61@gmail.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS/DONATIONS FOR 2017

Your \$20 subscription contributes to Cursillo expenses for the current year.

If you have yet to donate—you could pay your rep at the next Ultreya.

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Anglican Cursillo in Diocese of Newcastle (Application forms available)

<http://www.cursillonewcastle.org.au>

—Resources — Diary — News— The Encourager — Secretariat
(Links to Diocesan and National Secretariat websites, contacts etc.)



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Luke 21:29—36 ..and he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the Kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ...

AUTUMN 2017

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Please pray for

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1st Tuesday of EACH MONTH

@ St Paul's Beresfield

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May 2nd June 6th Jul 4th

Aug 1st Sep 5th Oct 3rd

Nov 7th Dec 5th

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DIOCESAN SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR Steve

Recognizing and Obeying God

When God rescued the people of Israel from Egypt, he made a covenant with them – a serious agreement between 2 groups or individuals. In biblical times, a covenant involved a list of promises, with the threat of what would happen if one party failed to keep it. As the Israelites prepared to enter the Promised Land, Moses reminded them that they were in a covenant with God and he would hold them to it. They had a simple choice. They could choose life, obey God's commands and receive his blessings – OR – they could choose death, follow other gods and find themselves living under a curse. This may seem to be a very clear and simple choice, but, repeatedly, the nations of Israel and Judah went on to choose curses rather than blessings.

Jesus offered a new covenant which he sealed with his own blood. In this new covenant, God's people are offered a new choice: to repent and believe –

requiring us to decide to turn in the direction of Jesus, to follow him and

discover life. So, our relationship with God could be described as a series of choices. Following Jesus is a daily process of choosing life over death – with the promise that he will work to heal our bad decisions so that new life is always open to us. We don't need to be like the Corinthians who seemed to want to choose between Paul and Apollos. We all have different gifts and callings and so need to work together in God's garden.

Life is full of choices and consequences – if we are holding a glass and we drop it on a hard floor, the chances are that it will break. Moses explained to the people of Israel that their future decisions would have consequences. They had been rescued from slavery in Egypt but they would need to choose to stay free. They could worship God and live his way OR they could choose to become slaves to idols made from stone or wood – basically a choice between life and death, blessings or curses. In our earlier days, we may have chosen things like money, success, popularity or possessions, rather than God but this sort of thinking gets us nowhere. I read on Facebook once that: the older you get, the more you realise you have no desire from drama, conflict or any kind of Intensity. We just want a cozy home, good food on the table, and surrounded by lovely people who make us happy. [©AwePost]

Life presents a series of choices. It's easy to make the wrong choice and get lost in a knotted mess of decisions and consequences. Jesus offers us so much – forgiveness, a new beginning, and a new life. We must trust Him and ask for His help. By placing all our bad decisions at the foot of the cross we soon learn that Jesus died for all of us and took upon himself the consequences of these decisions. This means that we are free – free to start all over again – and start living – living for Jesus. It doesn't mean that the mess is gone – AND – the consequences may still be there to be dealt with – BUT – we do have someone who will help us find our way to freedom, healing and peace. That gives us the freedom to live as servants of God and realise that the challenge of deciding is ALWAYS with us. We need to try and to see things from God's perspective, ask for His guidance and listen to other people. We need to keep choosing the life and love that comes from God. The following prayer summarizes this well:

Lord, you gave us freedom to choose.

Forgive us when we choose to turn away from you.

Lord, you gave us the ability to love.

Forgive us when we choose to be selfish.

Lord, you gave us this world to share.

Forgive us when we choose to forget.

Lord, you gave us Jesus to heal and forgive us.

Forgive us when we choose to say no.

Lord, forgive us for the bad choices and decisions that we have made.

Help us to choose love, justice and peace and to follow you into life. Amen.

De Colores

Fr Steve



Nothing Trumps Love

Intermingled in purpose,
hope, faith and love
are the catalysts of life.
Undefinable, and yet,
undeniable,
they exist
in the realm of possibilities.
And though they remain
intangible,
vague and abstract,
they are the building blocks
that supports our souls
and shape our destinies...

Hope, is a gateway emotion...
a precursor of faith,
that leads to happiness.
Without hope,
there's no clear path to follow,
no spark... to ignite
desire!

Faith fills a void in our hearts,
allowing us to step outside of self,
and that feeling of
fulfilment,
metamorphoses...into love.

Love is the pentacle of emotions,
it's the glue that holds humanity to-
gether...
Nothing trumps love,
it is the one thing God asks of us,
and the first thing He offers us...

Emile Pinet



When God Says No

When doors are closed in our life
We can only wonder why.
We grieve, we try to understand,
But often, we question and sigh.

God has a reason...one day we'll know why.
Only He can see the Master plan.
He sees the whole picture-from beginning to end.
He knows what's best, just hold on to His hand.

As fathers and mothers withhold some things
From the children entrusted to their care,
Knowing that their wish is not best for themselves

-
Though later, when they are older,
They may answer their prayer.

Our heavenly Father knows what is best for us.
So sometimes He must say no.
Down the road, He may say yes-
After we have time to grow.

Betty Butler



From DIOCESAN LAY DIRECTOR Lyn

Hi, my name is Lyn Carter
W14A table of Mary Magdalene.

I am honoured and pleased to begin my term serving our dear Lord as Co-Lay Director on Secretariat and within the Cursillo Movement in this Diocese. I, like my precursors before me find this position very daunting to begin with, but know with prayer and God's help I will aim to fulfil this position to the best of my ability.

I am delighted to be working alongside Co-Lay Director Brian Walsh and other members of Secretariat; I also appreciate all of the encouragement of my predecessor Helen Fraser who has left big footsteps for me to follow, I give thanks to God for her ministry.

For me Cursillo is to help create opportunities for individuals which by its own unique method leads them to a personal relationship with Jesus. It is to me imperative that the Cursillo Movement continues to function authentically and keep the flame of faith burning with enthusiasm and the Power of the Holy Spirit.

I am active member of the Parish Branxton Greta Lochinvar and worship at St John's Branxton. I have lived in Greta all of my life, married to Grant for over 40 years, we have 2 Sons and 1 daughter, 6 Grandsons and 1 Granddaughter.

Let us continue to look towards this wonderful movement in Love, Faith and Hope in God in whom all things are made possible.

May God bless us today and always. Lyn



ULTREYA DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT	PLACE
January 20 th 27 th	Friday Friday	6.00 for 6.30 pm 6.00 for 6.30 pm	Ultreya Ultreya	Cathedral Belmont
February 18 th	Friday	6.00 for 6.30 pm	Ultreya	Southlakes
March 4 th 11 th 24 th	Saturday Friday Saturday	1.00 for 2.00 pm 3pm 6.00 for 6.30 pm	Ultreya Ultreya Ultreya	St Andrew's Umina MICA Cockle Bay
April	EASTER	EASTER	EASTER	EASTER
May 6 th 14 th 28 th	Saturday Sunday Sunday	9.30 for 10.00 1.00 for 1.30 pm 1.00 for 1.30 pm	Ultreya Ultreya Ultreya	St Lukes Toukley Stockton Toronto
June 16 th 25 th	Friday Sunday	6.00 for 6.30 pm 1.00 for 1.30 pm	Ultreya Ultreya	Merewether Windale
July 14 th 22 nd 23 rd	Friday Saturday Sunday	6.00 for 6.30 pm 1.00 for 1.30 pm 1.00 for 2.00 pm	Ultreya Ultreya Ultreya	New Lambton Swansea Gosford
August 18 th	Friday	6.00 for 6.30 pm	Ultreya	Lambton
September 15 th 24 th	Friday Sunday	6.00 for 6.30 pm 1.00 for 1.30 pm	Ultreya Ultreya	Kotara South Cardiff
October 27 th	Friday	6.00 for 6.30pm	Ultreya	Charlestown
Nov 4 th	Saturday	9,00 for 9.30am	DIOCESAN ULTREYA	Cathedral

A KAIROS STORY

Pam was a guest on KOW 14, and she had many questions about God in her heart. After the guest weekend and first reunion Pam enthusiastically joined the Tugger-anong Coffee group. In 2014 Pam agreed to come on committee to be our chocolate sales coordinator. Pam did an exceptional job and sold in excess of 100 boxes to family friends and members of the Kairos community. So much so that Cadbury's recently gave KOW Canberra Monaro a grant for \$350.

In late February this year Pam was baptised at Pine Island. Her Kairos friends were there with flags waving. Still she wanted more. She felt called to be ministering to children in a less advantaged community. In early March Pam flew out of Australia on her dream mission - one she felt called by God to undertake. She is spending the next 5 months in Samoa working with women and children who are part of the Samoan Victims of Domestic Violence Community.

Deb Poulton

TIME

Chronos, ordinary time
Kairos for all eternity
Combine into eternal now
And Kingdom comes in time
Cruciform - history & eternity
To spend time, ask God how

Agape does not discriminate
Unconditional love won't escape
The key to open is God's agape
Time to wake up to God is great



Like putting on jeans
Can I put on Jesus?
God heard me scream
And he put me on Jesus

DID YOU KNOW? Kairos is about changing lives

Kairos is a local community-based Christian ministry that serves both those in prison and the families and friends of those in prison.

Kairos is a 'hands-on' activity helping bring: rehabilitation to the incarcerated through the possibility of hope and positive choices, and

support and encouragement to those affected

Kairos, through over 2,000 volunteers around Australia reaches out to

male and female inmates saying "You have a choice".

family and friends of those inmates, saying "You are not alone".

juvenile offenders, saying "There's a better way ahead"

At Kairos, we know we can't fix their problems or solve the causes, as people have to be allowed to make their own decisions. But we can help them to recognize, choose and live new lives.

Kairos makes a difference

Kairos is making a difference...

... to individuals, families and friends with whom we come in contact.

... to the environment of the correctional centres we access.

... to the next generation as they experience a change in the family members who begin, and therefore model, a lifestyle without crime.

... to the wider society, by helping to reduce the recidivism rate, and therefore reducing the cost of further imprisonment.

... to local communities as the ripple effect of someone making positive life choices flows out through their daily life to those they come in contact with.

Through a 40 hour program given over three to five days inside prisons (called a 'Short Course') and 25 hours given over a weekend for outside programs, Kairos presents the possibility of a different, positive life through supportive, compassionate and non-judgmental words, actions and examples.

Then through ongoing 'Journey' visits and reunion days continuing hope and support are offered and 'proven' by the continued contact ("walking the talk").

Kairos is a mission to those inside prison and to those affected by having

NEW SECRETARIAT MEMBER

Greetings my brothers and sisters in Christ. My name is Bill Nicolle, the Table of Matthew, Men's 2 Cursillo, Newcastle, July 1990, a long time ago, and boy did it change the colour of my life!

It will be a privilege and great pleasure to serve on secretariat, and I pray I humbly serve. I'm a Novocastrian through and through (that includes Lake Macquarie!) and have been a follower of Christ, since baptism, "as a bub", deepening and enriching my faith as I continue to worship and serve Christ in my life journey.

Before giving up paid employment, I worked as a professional Mechanical Engineer in heavy Industry, Education and finally Energy Management consulting,

Glenda and I worship @ All Saints Morisset, and are involved in many ministries run at All Saints, and love being part of that vibrant welcoming church family. We have 3 adult children, who have all done their Cursillo, and needless to say, bring great joy to us as they continue in their Christian journeys.

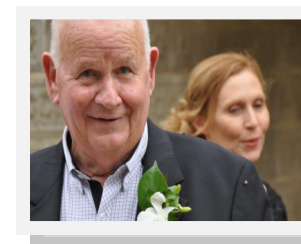
As with many, my Cursillo changed my life. The joy of that weekend! The 4th day living in the unconditional love of God, recognised and experienced through the Cursillo movement, continues to have significant meaning in my life.

Cursillo has broadened my outlook & outreach, involving me in many, many Curillos over these 27 years, and back in 1997 saw me volunteer to be on team for Men's Kairos Inside #1 @ Cessnock Correctional Centre. This journey "with the boy's in green" still continues today, with Glenda and I being part of both St Helier's (Muswellbrook) & Cessnock Kairos Communities Inside programs.

May God encourage you all, as we continue our Christian journeys.

Ultreya! Bill!

P.S. My family & I thank you so much for your prayers, Apostolic Action and support over these past 4 months, as I continue on that road to recovery, hopefully with more care on my push bike!





*Diocese of Newcastle
Anglican Cursillo Movement*

Workshops # nos 2 and 3, 2017

@ Tea Gardens on the 25th March 2017

@Belmont on 29th April 2017

for

Leaders School / Servant Community

This reminder / invitation to all vets, new or old, to encourage you to attend either one of the 2 remaining Leaders School / Servant Community (LSSC) workshops organized by Secretariat for 2017, so you can attend which ever one suits your calendar or convenience.

The first workshop was a great a success and inspiring to all the vets that attended. As these workshops are designed to assist us in the vital part our Fourth Day plays in our active Christian lives, and no matter how long ago you attended your weekend, you'll get great encouragement from the learning material and experiences shared by all who attend.

Workshop # 2:-

Where:- Tea Gardens Anglican Church.
28 Witt St, Tea Gardens

When :- March 25th @ 9.00 for 9.30 & finishes @ 2:00

Workshop # 3:-

Where :- Belmont Anglican Church Hall,
24 Church St, Belmont

When :- April 29th @ 9.00 for 9.30 & finishes @ 2:00

Any enquiries, please contact servant Community Coordinators:

Gail Isles. ddmgk@bigpond.com

Bill Nicolle. sticks@aapt.net.au

Don't forget to bring your lunch, Mission Praise, cross & name tag.

Many parishes had 'Thank You Boxes' provided by Anglican Women, which can be handed in with your Offertory at Church to forward to Anglican Women.

One can also join the **Prayer Vigil**. Each weekend is covered in prayer 24/7, or attend the Closing service on the Sunday afternoon, when the wider Christian Community is invited to come along and show their support, as well as hear something of what has happened over the weekend. You might like to offer some *agape* gifts for the tables, or something for the Birthday present they receive.

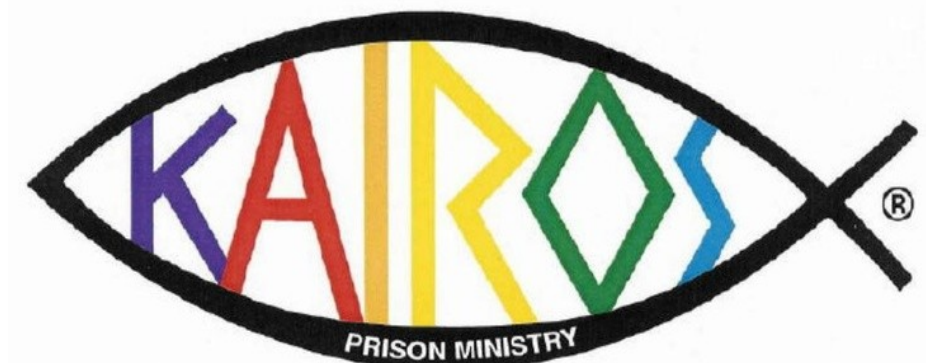
Each weekend has its own theme. Copies of the banner are made onto A4 paper and handed out for people to colour in. These will then decorate the walls of the room where most of the weekend is spent. They show that complete strangers have been thinking and praying for them.

How wonderful it is to see these women, both young and old, impacted for good, impacted by God, and impacted for life. Lives are changed!

(P.S. Clergy: There is always a need for Chaplains!)

PLEASE EVERYONE, PRAY FOR WOMEN'S KAIROS OUTSIDE

Myuna Bay 7-9 APRIL 2017



God's Special Time

'KAIROS OUTSIDE' extends unconditional love and acceptance

Based on the Cursillo and Emmaus weekends, with many of the Team members being Cursillistas, 'Kairos' (Greek for 'special time') offers hope. The inside program to the offender who must serve their sentence; and the outside program to the family of offenders, who often do time as well, even though they did not commit the crime.

Can you imagine what it is like to have a son or daughter, a parent, or a spouse who has been convicted, sentenced and imprisoned? Life is about to change – for them, and also for you. 'How am I going to cope with everyday life?' Doubt and fear drive you away from your usual support networks. People turn their backs on you, out of fear or misunderstanding, shame or embarrassment. You don't go out. You become isolated, and feel rejected.

At Kairos Outside weekends, Guests find a safe environment where people are willing to listen to them. They are blown away when they discover other women who have been through these same experiences, and these same feelings. Imagine their surprise when they discover women who have not only survived, but are also doing well. This is the beauty of Kairos Outside. We offer a listening ear without condemnation, as we seek to love them as we listen.

Two weekends a year are held at Myuna Bay on Lake Macquarie. The program is based around 8 Talks - on Choices; Isolation and Rejection; The Church; Communication with God; Anger; The Home Environment; Relationships; and Perseverance through Community.

There continues to be support after a weekend through Reunion Dinners. Or they might join the Craft Group that makes the little *agape* gifts showered on Guests, whilst sharing some afternoon tea and chatter. Some may later come on Team if it is appropriate for them.

Can you be involved?

You don't have to come on Team to be able to participate. There are many other ways you can help. Each weekend costs about \$16,000 to run so fund-raising is necessary. Each team member contributes a voluntary monetary gift of \$250, however the weekend is provided completely free of charge to the Guests. There are usually about 32 people on Team and between 10 and 20 Guests on a weekend.

MONTHLY CURSILLO PRAYER DIARY

Pray everyday for our Bishops Greg & Peter
along with our Diocese as we move to our healthy
future remembering our past.

- Day 1 National Lay Director – Roger O'Hara
- Day 2 National Secretary – Wendy Mabey
- Day 3 National Treasurer – Leanne Doyle
- Day 4 National Webmaster – Tony Shellshear
- Day 5 National Spiritual Director – Rev'd Sue Allen
- Day 6 Incoming National Spiritual Director – Rev'd Steve Niland
- Day 7 National Episcopal Advisor – Bishop Ian Palmer

- Day 8 Diocesan Co-Lay Directors – Lyn Carter & Brian Walsh
- Day 9 Diocesan Spiritual Director – Rev'd Steve Niland
- Day 10 Diocesan Spiritual Advisor – Rev'd Barb Hayes
- Day 11 Diocesan Secretary – Laurel Mitchell
- Day 12 Diocesan Treasurer & Copyright – Noeline Darcy
- Day 13 Fourth Day Applications/Promotion – Sue Cook
- Day 14 Prayer Co-ordinator – David Marsh
- Day 15 Servant Community Co-ordinators – Gail Iles & Bill Nicole
- Day 16 Diocesan Proctor – Michael Sinclair
- Day 17 'The Encourager' Editor – Martina Bowen
- Day 18 Palanca Co-ordinator –

- Day 19 Central Coast – Clergy, Servant Community,
Deanery Contact Noeline Darcy
- Day 20 Lake Macquarie - Clergy, Servant Community,
Deanery Contact Brian Taylor
- Day 21 Maitland - Clergy, Servant Community,
Deanery Contact Wendy Brack
- Day 22 Paterson - Clergy, Servant Community,
Deanery Contact Colvin Ford
- Day 23 Manning - Clergy, Servant Community,
Deanery Contact Billie Baillie
- Day 24 Upper Hunter- Clergy, Servant Community,
Deanery Contact Tony Farmer
- Day 25 Newcastle - Clergy, Servant Community,
Deanery Contact Fr Chris Bullock
- Day 26 Men's Camp @ Tahlee via Karuah
- Day 27 Lay Director W46 – Lesley Byrne
- Day 28 Lay Director M46 – Tony Farmer
- Day 29 Prospective Sponsors & Potential Candidates
- Day 30 Fourth Day Community
- Day 31 World Cursillo Community,
Kairos, Kairos Torch,
Kairos Outside



Lesley Byrne W46 Lay Director
I was born and lived my early life in a small rural community of Manilla NSW. We moved to Belmont where I finished High School. Then I went to Sydney to train as a teacher where I met my husband Bart (at Church Fellowship).

My first teaching appointment was Belmont North, and although we have moved several times, I have spent my whole married life in the Newcastle area. Five years ago we moved back to Belmont. Bart and I have two children and two wonderful grandchildren (we're not at all biased.)

I made my Cursillo in 1990 on W2 and found it a great mountain top experience in my Christian journey.

We worship at All Saints Belmont where, among other things, I am the Parish Secretary and President of the Evening Mothers Union Group. Bart and I are active members of our local Lake Macquarie Servant Community group.

In my spare time I enjoy reading, gardening, craft work, puzzles, tennis and doing family things with my family.

I feel very blessed and privileged to have been called by God to lead W46 Cursillo.

De Colores, Lesley

Men's and Women's 46 Cursillo Leaders

Tony Farmer M46 Lay Director

My Christian journey began after WW2 with Sunday School in the Anglican Church in Helensburgh down the NSW South Coast. The Church happened to be close to my home and my mother sent me there even though she was not Anglican but a member of Church of Christ. Later we moved to the Hunter Valley and I was baptised and confirmed in All Saints Anglican Church in Singleton.

I made my Cursillo in 1991 Men's 5 at the St. John of God School, Morisset. I have been on team four times with M31, M37, M40 & M44. I have also been on several Kairos teams in the St Heliers Correctional Centre since 1999. I am a Chalice Assistant, Bell Ringer, Sidesman and I am on the reading roster at All Saints. I also have completed the Bishop's Certificate.

I was delighted to be invited to lead the Men's 46 Cursillo later this year and I look forward to the challenge. I am sure that the text from Matthew 11.30 applies here when Jesus said:

"For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

De Colores

Tony

